

	Directorate of Intelligence 9 April 1975	
	INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM	
	The Situation in Indochina (As of 1600 EDST) No. 7	
	CAMBODIA	
	The Tactical Situation	
	l. The erosion of Phnom Penh's outer defenses has now reached the point where a major Khmer Communist penetration and/or a general collapse of Cambodian army units could occur with little warning. Khmer Communist forces late yesterday made their closest advance yet to Pochentong airport by forcing government units to abandon a village only four miles from the airfield. Although only rocket and artillery rounds landed near Pochentong today, the captured village is within recoilless rifle range of the airport terminal and control tower. Counterattacking government troops failed to retake the village last night, and US defense attaches report that government units in the area are stretched thin.	25X1
25X1	2. The Communists yesterday opened a new gap in the defense line six miles north of the airfield following the unauthorized withdrawal of a government unit.	
L	punch through the gap toward the Tonle Sap River and isolate a number of government units and artillery positions on Route 5. Local government commanders, however, are apparently trying to preempt such a maneuver.	
NSA reviev	3. The Communists are also keeping relentless pressure on government units on the east bank of the Mekong River near Phnom Penh. Government holdings in the area have now been reduced to a relatively small enclave directly opposite the city and a few other isolated positions. Recoilless rifle or mortar fire from w(s) completed.	
State Depa review(s) completed.		25X1
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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	the east bank has begun hitting near Phnom Penh's waterfront,
	4. In the countryside, government troops are now fight- ing well at Kompong Speu, and the threat to the town appears to be easing. Ground action has also slackened around Prey Yeng, although the town itself was the target of insurgent shellings early this morning.
	Evacuation Status
	5. A late report from the US Embassy indicates that 67 US government employees and 84 private US citizens remain in Phnom Penh. The evacuation list also includes 12 third-country nationals and approximately 600 Cambodians. Some 260 Cambodian 25 departed aboard US charter aircraft today.
	VIETNAM .
	308th Division to Move South 25
25X1	7. One of Hanoi's last two reserve divisions the crack 308th may soon follow the North Vietnamese Army 1st Corps and three other reserve divisions to South Vietnam.
05V4	The 1st Corps and three of
25X1	ts supordinate divisions the 312th, the 320B, and the 338th - have already reached the Demilitarized Zone or are in northern south Vietnam. They are believed to be on their way to the Saigon area and could arrive there over the next few weeks.
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Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300070019	·-3
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Plans to Attack Saigon 25X1	•
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8. The Communists may be planning to attack Sadefenses soon.	aigon
a three pronged assault is supposed	to be
launched against the capital sometime during the fire	
of April, but not later than the 15th.	
9. One spearhead is to attack from the west a	long Route
1 toward Tan Son Nhut airport. Sapper elements and	
dent regiments under the command of COSVN are to com	nstitute
this attacking force. A second group, composed of the fath Division and the attack from the month of the fath of t	
the 5th Division, are to attack from the south alone The strongest spearhead, from the 7th Division with	
an unspecified number of COSVN infantry, armor and a	artillerv
reserve units, is to attack from the north along Ro	oute l. [*]
10. Prior to the start of the assaults, Viet Co	ona cadre
in Saigon are to "create disorder and confusion" amo	
population. some of the te	echniques
used at Da Narg will be employed. Individuals disgr	
police or government security units, for example, ma	
cast claims that the Communists are on the outskirt city and that people should begin to evacuate.	ts or the
one, and ende people should negative to evacuate.	
11. There has been other and more reliable info	
that the Communists plan "at the right time" to atta but that such attacks would likely come after provin	ack Salgon,
rounding the capital have been "liberated."	ices sur-
12. It is doubtful that between now and the next the Communists will feel their forces are strong end	
area to conduct an all-out assault against the capit	
Communist forces are deployed roughly in the areas	
as the three principal attack routes,	
ably will wait until additional units arrive from the	
before considering such a move. The Communists would a strong enough position to attack Saigon by the end	
month.	
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The Military Cityestian Van G
The Military Situation Near Saigon
13. Communist forces launched several sharp local attacks on the approaches to Saigon early today. The most serious was a heavy shelling and ground assault against Xuan Loc city, less than 40 miles east of the capital. Units from the North Vietnamese 6th Division penetrated the city's defenses and established positions in the market. Elements of the North Vietnamese 341st Division, which recently arrived in the area from North Vietnam, could be joining the 6th; two prisoners taken in Xuan Loc claim they are from the 341st.
14. Regional commanders reacted quickly and moved units of the South Vietnamese 18th Division from several field positions in Long Khanh Province, and they brought in reinforcements from Tay Ninh Province and from Saigon. Although government forces have driven the attackers from the city, sharp communist attacks nearby have resulted in the loss of several important tactical positions, including some high ground overlooking Route 1. If Route 1 can be effectively blocked by the communists between Xuan Loc and Saigon, a large number of government forces would be cut off.
15. A small force belonging to the North Vietnamese 5th Division most of which has moved quickly out of the northern delta to the provinces west of Saigon apparently attacked the provincial capital of Tan An, its airfield, and stretches of Route 4. The attack was repulsed by government regional forces which reportedly inflicted heavy casualties on the communist force. South Vietnamese 7th Division forces have cleared communist troops from Highway 4, and traffic has resumed.
More Aircraft for the Delta
16. The South Vietnamese Air Force has deployed five A-l propeller aircraft to Binh Thuy airfield just outside of Can Tho, and five more are due to arrive soon. These aircraft probably were among the operational aircraft evacuated from Pleiku and other abandoned airfields in the north. These aircraft carry a large bomb load and have the ability to loiter over potential targets, making them particularly suitable for ground support. Where these planes are already in action in the delta, the morale of some government ground troops has reportedly risen. -4-
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Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP86T00608R00030007001	9-3	
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Communist Nha Trang	•	
17. The communists are expanding their hold city of Nha Trang. Their forces are now in complete	to gontuni	
equipment.	ane and	25X1
at least half of the shoopen, Salgon's currency is still being used, and Nonamese flags are flying over all former government military offices.	orth Wint-	
militedly Offices.		•
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